



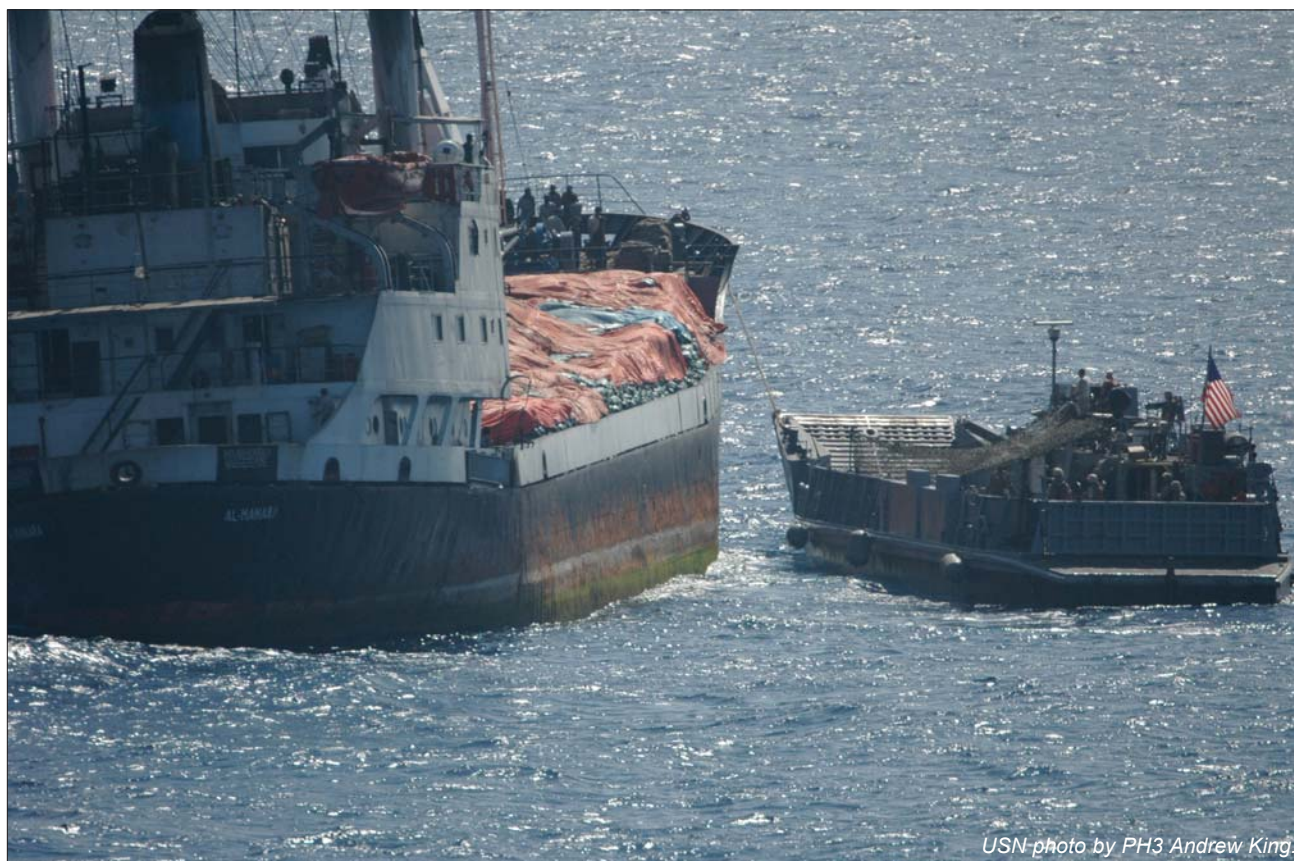
Gator Times

USS NASSAU (LHA 4)

February 3, 2006

Vol. 7, No. 3

Top Gator Provides Assistance to Disabled Cargo Ship Off Kenyan Coast



USN photo by PH3 Andrew King.

Landing Craft Utility (LCU) 1663, attached to Assault Craft Unit Two (ACU-2) det. Delta from Little Creek Amphibious Base, Va., prepares to deliver supplies to the distressed motor vessel Al Manara, Jan. 31, 2006. NASSAU supplied the ship with 10 days of food and water using LCUs while the ship waited for a tugboat to help it get to the next port.

By JOC(SW/AW) Dean Lohmeyer

USS NASSAU and embarked units provided assistance to a distressed vessel off the coast of Kenya Jan. 31 while conducting maritime security operations (MSO) in the area.

MSO help preserve the free and secure use of the world's oceans by le-

gitimate mariners and prevent terrorists from attempting to use the maritime environment as a venue for attack or as a medium to transport personnel, weapons or other material that could support their efforts. In addition, coalition assets like NASSAU also assist mariners in distress as part of MSO.

Motor vessel Al Manara reported a need for provisions, engineering as-

sistance and medical attention. The highly trained crew aboard USS NASSAU responded as part of their MSO to provide supplies, medicine and assistance to the vessel's crew.

"We received a report from Commander Task Force (CTF) 150 stating that the motor vessel Al Manara had suffered an engineering casualty ap-

See "Assistance," page 4.



1

As I See It

What do I Need to do to Advance?

By CMDCM(SW/AW) R. Makowski

Here it is time for another issue of the Gator Times. This issue finds us leaving Port Victoria, Seychelles, our first port call after Bahrain.

We just accomplished a tasking that took us across the Equator to help some mariners in their time of need.

I am amazed that no matter how well we plan out our schedule, life can throw us a curveball and our schedule will change. It was unique to have the opportunity to play out childhood dreams in our adult life. That is about all I can talk about our last operation with out getting the information "cleared," but I am sure every Sailor and Marine aboard knows what I am talking about, and will

live with the memories for a lifetime.

For our families and friends back in the U.S., we know it meant a lack of communication to you, but please understand that some times no information is good news. It means we are doing the job we were sent out here to do. Although most of you will never know why we have to shut down the e-mail system, the security of our mission must take precedence. Thanks for your understanding and patience.

I am frequently asked by the Sailors aboard NASSAU, "What do I need to do to advance?" I wish I had access to that crystal ball and could let you know what is on the next advancement exam. What I can tell you is that if you haven't already, you need to start preparing yourself now.

One way to do this is to set aside time for yourself. I know our schedule does not leave you much time, but setting aside an hour a day for advancement study will help you to reach your goal.

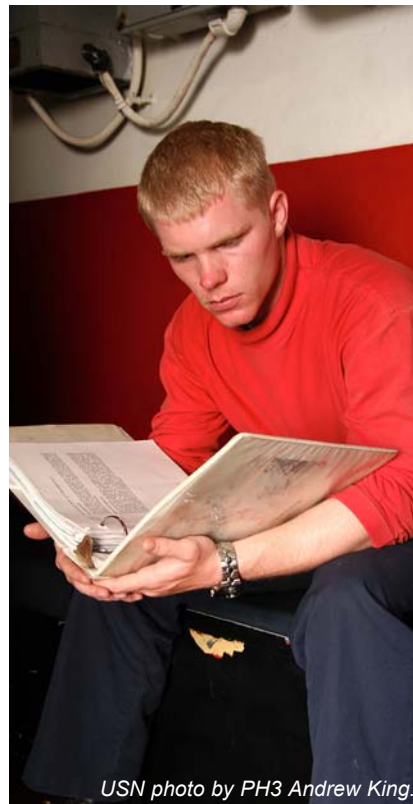
Remember that the Basic Military Requirements (BMR's) comprise 50 percent of your test. These questions are universal for all Sailors in all ratings. This is where I recommend finding a study or focus group and helping each other to study.

The Junior Enlisted Training Team, or JETT, classes are offered in the evenings several times a week. This course, taught by several of our First Class Petty Officers, is an outstanding review of the BMR. Personnel who attended multiple classes prior to the last exam cycle had outstanding advancement results.

We are also trying to fit mandatory study time into our schedule, where we will allot an hour several times per week to allow for professional training.

Next you need to strive for the best possible evaluation you can. The difference between a Promotable and Must Promote on your evaluation can mean up to 12 points on your advancement final multiple.

Finally, learn how to take a test. For most Navy tests, two of the four an-



USN photo by PH3 Andrew King.

ABH3 Michael Hutchins studies for his March advancement exam.

swers to any question can be readily discarded, leaving you a fifty-fifty chance of answering the question correctly. Review your rating's bibliography for advancement. If you have any questions, ask you LPO or LCPO.

Remember that as temperatures rise in this part of the world, our ability to cool the ship becomes more difficult. Remember to close the air conditioning boundary doors behind you. This will not over tax our air conditioning systems, and allow for a more comfortable crew. Keeping the temperatures down, also keeps the tempers of the crew down. This will provide better living conditions for all aboard.

As I close out this issue, and as we near the half way point of this cruise, we must redouble our efforts to concentrate on the job at hand, pay attention and complete the job the right way the first time.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.

Gator Times USS NASSAU (LHA 4) February 3, 2006 Vol. 7, No. 3

Gator Times is a production of
USS NASSAU Public Affairs.

Editorial Staff

Commanding Officer

CAPT M.W. Brannon

Executive Officer

CDR G. M. Boardman

Command Master Chief

CMDCM(SW/AW) Rick Makowski

Public Affairs Officer

LTJG April Bakken

Editor

JOC(SW/AW) Dean Lohmeyer

Staff Writer

JO1 Ardelle L. Purcell

Photo Support

PH1(AW/SW) Brian McFadden

PH2(AW) Sue Milton

PH3 Andrew King

PHAN Amanda Clayton

PHAN Stephen Scott Smith

Printing

JO1(SW) Cindy Gill

DM1 Charmin Covington

LI3 Sean Stafford

In Praise of Snail Mail

By Chaplain Karl A. Lindblad

There is a custom practiced amongst Jewish people concerning the written word, particularly scripture. When a scroll or book of scripture has become unserviceable it is literally buried in the earth; it is not burned or destroyed in any other manner. No, it is laid to rest just like a deceased person might be buried.

Usually scriptures have been handwritten or transcribed. For this reason the written word is regarded as a living thing and worthy of respect. Therefore when that script is aged it is not regarded as trash, but as something deserving of reverence even to the point of burial.

Having arrived on the NASSAU in late December and after waiting several weeks, my mail finally caught up with me. What a joy it was to open a letter, a much delayed Christmas card or even a good magazine. Mind you I very much appreciate the use of e-mail and its in-

stantaneous qualities, but there is just something different about a letter.

Maybe it's the feel, the texture; but often it's seeing the handwritten script of your loved ones that cause us to carefully tuck away that note or card and every so often to open it up once again.

There's no danger of overflowing the e-mail system, no power outage to endure or even accidentally hitting the delete key. One gets such a sense of home just seeing the edge of the envelope and re-reading the joys and challenges of those we miss who are so far away.

Works the other way as well; I took out a pad and dashed off a note to Mom. What joy she expressed upon receiving that handwritten note, despite the fact that she just recently learned how to do e-mail.

How about you? When was the last time you sat down with pen in hand and actually wrote a note to your family or friends? We do get the shipboard

Chaplain's Corner



advantage of free personal snail mail. Too often we fail to realize the power of a handwritten letter. Maybe some friends reading this might even think of penning a note our way.

A few of us even remember the days when a lady might put a drop or two of her favorite perfume on the letter she mailed our way. That certainly made an impression when her guy opened that note so many weeks later. There is just something about the physically written word, the style of his/her writing, the sense that they touched this paper; it's truly alive.

As you read this it dawned on me that I'm typing in an electronic format, but it is only a copy. You see, I was forced to write it out in longhand; someone had locked up my computer! Hmmm, maybe I'll save the original; better go find an envelope.

Navy Announces Education Voucher Program

Story by Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) recently released information for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Graduate Education Voucher (GEV) program, which offers eligible unrestricted line (URL) officers the opportunity to receive funded graduate education during off-duty hours.

According to Ann Hunter, NETC Education Director, significant changes to this year's program include the realignment of degree program category allotments based on Navy requirements.

As in previous years, officers must choose a course of study that is relevant to their Navy career in order to align the program along the lines of the Professional Military Education Continuum.

The GEV program is open to URL active duty list officers, paygrades O-3 through O-5, in designators 111X, 112X, 113X, 114X, and 13XX. Quotas for FY05

are as follows: Surface Warfare - 47; Submarine - 40; Aviation - 47; Special Warfare/Special Operations (SPECWAR/SPECOPS) - 6.

Quotas by degree program and warfare areas are available in NAVADMIN 018-06, posted on the Navy College Program's GEV Web page at: <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/gev>.

The GEV program is targeted at officers with demonstrated superior performance and upward career mobility who are transferring, or have recently reported, to shore duty in order to allow sufficient time for completion of a graduate program.

Officers who have already received a graduate degree funded by a Department of Defense or Veteran's education benefit are ineligible, although those currently enrolled in qualifying graduate degree programs using Tuition Assistance, other financial assistance programs, or paying privately, may apply.

The program benefits cover all

graduate education costs (tuition, books, registration/application fees), to a maximum of \$20,000 per year for up to 24 months from the time of enrollment (not to exceed \$40,000 total). Some restrictions apply and enrollment in the program carries a service obligation of three times the number of months of education completed, with a maximum of 36 months. NAVADMIN 018/06 contains additional information on specific program requirements.

Interested officers should submit written requests to their detailer, per the NAVADMIN.

For those not qualifying for the GEV program, assistance is still available through the Tuition Assistance program and other graduate education programs as listed on the NPC Web site at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/Education/GraduateEducationPrograms/>. For general information on the GEV Program, visit the Navy College Program's GEV Web site at <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/gev>.





USN photo by PH3 Andrew King.

A MH-60S Knighthawk attached to HSC-28 passes overhead while LCU 1661 approaches the port beam of the distressed motor vessel Al Manara.

“Assistance,” from page 1.

proximately 680 miles off the coast of Kenya and was in need of provisions until assistance could be provided by another source,” said CDR Edward Murdock, NASSAU’s Operations Officer.

“Upon arrival, we assessed the situation and with the embarked units – helicopters, LCUs (Landing Craft Utilities), the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) unit and the ship’s force – we worked together as a team to provide food and water as well as medical care for four of their crew.”

NASSAU Sailors worked with Sailors from Naval Beach Group 2 Detachment Delta, Assault Craft Unit Two (ACU-2) Detachment Delta, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) Two Detachment 22, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28 (HSC-28) and Beach Master Unit Two to complete the mission by providing help to the 21 crew members of Al Manara.

The sea state at the time proved challenging as did the fact that those involved had never worked alongside a cargo vessel like Al Manara. The Sailors’ training prior to deployment helped keep them determined to accomplish the mission.

“This operation went off perfectly because we had our best trained Sailors involved, and everyone knew exactly what they had to do and did it perfectly,” said LCDR David Tarwater, Officer in Charge of Naval Beach Group 2 Detachment Delta. “We were at the limit when it came to operating our small craft in

these waters, and it wouldn’t have been a success if those involved hadn’t done their jobs just like they were trained to do.”

After delivering thousands of gallons of water and food, including rice, chicken, fruit and vegetables, to the Al Manara, NASSAU’s responders took four Al Manara crew members back to NASSAU to receive medical treatment from the ship’s medical department and embarked fleet surgical team. On board, 12 medical personnel attended to their unexpected patients, drawing blood and doing lab work. Before Al Manara’s crew members departed NASSAU, they received a good report from the afloat medical team.

“These guys had medical issues that needed to be addressed right away,” said Lt. Nathan Perrizo, NASSAU’s general medical officer. “Some of them were about to run out of their critical (medicines), so we gave them enough to get them to their next port.”

Sailors involved in responding to the distress call say the assistance they provided the crew of Al Manara gave them sense of satisfaction.

“Anytime you can help out a fellow Sailor on your ship or on another ship always makes you feel like a better person,” said Tarwater. “When we left, they were all in better spirits, smiling, laughing and thanking us for what we gave them.”

Music Takes Center Stage at Talent Show

NASSAU Sailors took a few moments to relax during a Talent Show held in the Hangar Bay Jan. 22, 2006. Musical acts seemed to be the theme of the evening as many Sailors showed their talent at singing, while NASSAU's newest band made an appearance as well. Right: SN(SW) Crystal Griffin of Supply's HazMat Division sings for the audience. Griffin won 2nd place. BELOW: From left to right, CS3(SW) Sean Hertzsch of Supply's S-2 Division, AT3 Tom Horrell of AIMD's IMO2 Division, AS2(AW) Jay Torres of AIMD's IMO4 Division, and AW3(AC) perform during the Talent Show. The band, known as the Chicken Heads didn't place in the show but are practicing for future appearances at steel beach picnics.

Photos by PH2(AW) Sue Milton.



YNSN(SW) Michael Arache

Hometown: New York, N.Y.

Bravo Zulu

CMC's Super Sailors Of The Day

21 Jan – SHSN Ronald Ruley (SUP)
 22 Jan – PSSN Perina Neupane (AIMD)
 23 Jan – IT3 Richard Mummert (C5I)
 24 Jan – EM3 Brian Charley (ENG)
 25 Jan – AN Linus Dias (AIR)
 26 Jan – AOAN James Phelps (WEPS)
 27 Jan – SN Andrew Wood (DECK)
 28 Jan – CSSN Jose Lopez (SUP)
 29 Jan – OS3 Marcus Carter (SUP)
 30 Jan – FC3 Kyle Warren (C5I)
 31 Jan – MR3 Russell Lane (ENG)
 1 Feb – ABFAN Timothy Fultz (AIR)
 2 Feb – LI3 Sean Stafford (OPS)
 3 Feb – ASAN Manuel Palaguachi (AIMD)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

ET3(SW/AW) Francisco Rodriguez
 LT John McBryde
 LT Thomas Stephens

PH3 Andrew King

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

LT John McBryde
 ACC Aaron LoMax
 IT2 Jackus Allen
 CS2 Brian Cook

CO's Letter of Commendation

ATC Alan Marchione
 ICC Michael Pavelich
 ET2 Blake Henry

Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist

DT1 Kimberly Coore
 IC2 John Brinsko
 IT2 Robert Chrzanowski
 ABH2 Papito Francis
 SK2 Jonathan Igwebueze

IT2 Scott Lecture
 IT3 Ricardo Aguilera
 HM3 Jakarta Crafton
 DT3 Jannique Hazell
 IT3 Amy Krochalk
 EM3 John Malenda
 IC3 Andrew Mohr
 CTO3 Williams
 BMSN Joseph Ghee
 SN Chystal Griffin
 AN Christian Manongdo
 SN William Mills
 BMSN Brian Theall

Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist

ET3 Brian Mathis

Frocked to Petty Officer Third Class

DC3 Rudde McKnight

Sailors Let it Fly in Dodge Ball Tourney



USN photo by PH3 Andrew King.

The Dodge Ball craze has become a favorite pastime for NASSAU's Sailors. A friendly competition started by the Morale Welfare and Recreation committee to boost morale and give Sailors something new and fun to do has become a much anticipated event, with more spectators than participants turning out to watch the action. LEFT: HM2 Bethany Steele of the NASSAU Medical Department lets fly during an opening round match during the Dodge Ball Tournament held Jan. 18, 2006. Steele was a member of the only all female dodge ball team entered in the tournament. BELOW: Members of HSC-28 Search And Rescue Detachment prepare for the attack.



USN photo by PH3 Andrew King.

Integrated Learning Environment to Deliver Right Training at the Right Time

Navy News Service

Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), the Navy's Sea Warrior Web portal for knowledge management, will soon debut a new Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) Web site designed to provide needed information and guidance to government and contractor personnel who develop Navy training and performance support tools.

"Besides being more visually appealing," said Jake Aplanalp of the Human Performance Center (HPC) in Orlando and an ILE Content Team member, "the new ILE Web site is the authoritative source of information, policy, guidance, standards, and specifications, broken down into manageable pieces, updated, and placed in easy-to-find drop-down menus. Other features like updated points of contact, contracting information, and ILE content creation tool descriptions are also included."

"The new site will help uniformed instructors, learning standards officers, and government and contractor folks who develop ILE-compliant training for Sailors," Aplanalp added, "so the training they develop will be much more educationally effective, and cost effective for the Navy in the long run."

In order to fully support the Sea Warrior strategic vision, an ILE Implementation Team was assembled consisting of personnel from a host of naval activities throughout the Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPT&E) enterprise. Their goal was to ensure the ILE provided individually

tailored high-quality learning, training aids, and electronic performance supports for Sailors.

To realize their goal, the team was tasked with providing the managerial, procedural, and business framework necessary to implement an affordable, stable, and reliable information technology environment. The new Web site is one of many efforts the Implementation Team has undertaken to support their overarching goal.

ILE Content Team Lead Jerry Best, of the Human Performance Center (HPC) in Orlando, and his team developed the new Web site for the Navy. For the past several weeks, it has been online for review and has received feedback from industry and government as to how it can best be designed, and how the documentation can be modified to meet the needs of all potential users.

"So far, feedback has been very useful and positive," Aplanalp said.

All the documentation contained within the site will be in "final" format by mid-February and will continue to be updated once it is launched.

"The Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) is a strategic initiative to enable the Navy to meet specific Sea Warrior goals through knowledge-based training," said Dean Norman, ILE Implementation Team member from the Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC). "Our objective as an implementation team is to ensure that the ILE has the right functions and tools available to assist Sailors in managing their education and training needs via NKO. Our

goal is to provide the best fit between the work that is to be performed (the mission) and the person who is to accomplish the work (the trained Sailor)."

Most importantly, Norman said, the ILE needs to be a reliable and functional source for users. Distance learning that is to be available to a large number of people on a regular basis requires learning program content that is user-friendly, easily accessible, and functions properly when accessed over the Internet. The design has to be able to deliver the product to the user in the right mode at the right time, every time.

Norman said that the ILE concept, where an environment for training and education can be mapped to the individual, serves as a prototype that business and academia are headed toward in the near future. The Navy, through the ILE and its partnership with various business entities that are part of the ILE Implementation Team, are pioneering this use of technology and learning sciences.

Programs and multiple system interfaces that once operated independent of each other will now, through ILE, be managed as a single integrated capability. Employing the NKO Web portal, the ILE will provide access to a learning management system, data warehouse, and technical data repository in a "seamless" fashion that is transparent to users, but powerful in capability.

To view the new Web site, visit: <http://navyile.fedsun.navy.mil>. For the latest updates on training visit NKO Web site at <https://wwwa.nko.navy.mil>.

The Seven Pillars of Success

1. *Integrity*
2. *Level of Knowledge*
3. *Procedural Compliance*
4. *Formal Communications*
5. *Questioning Attitude*
6. *Forceful Backup*
7. *Risk Management*